Burdle 2-43

"THE MOONSHINER'S DAUGTER"

CLST

BILL CROW ROUGH HEAVY

FRAMI FARNUM LEAD

RASTUS BLACKFACE COMEDY

DAISY SOUBRATTA LEAD

HEPSY LOWRY CHARACTER OLD WOMAN

SETTING

The exterior of Hepsy Lowry's cabin in the hills of the Cumberland. Hills and High pine trees and set cabin on the L. Bench down R. of stage.

PROPS

Shotgun

Revolver

Rope

Water bucket

Bench

Whiskey jug

Bags or suitcase for Frank

Bunch of wild daisies for Daisy

Corn cob pige for Hepsy

RASTUS

(INTERS CARRIES BUCKET) Doggone! I'se just so tired ah just cain't make it. The Hissus done told me to get some water fo' her but ah got to rest first, or I'll be havin' a relapse. (LAYS ON BENCH GO S TO S SUND ASLE IP. SNORES)

HEPSY LOWRY

(INTERS L.) Where's that good for nothin' no 'count nigger? Restus!

E-Rastus Brown! Linkhisent him after a bucket of water an hour ago. (SES HIM ON BINCH) There he is! (SHAMES HIM) Wake up! Wake up! You low down shuffling hound dog!

Yes'm! Ah's gettin' up. Is--is it momin' yet?

HEPSY

Is it morning? What do you think it is? Where's that water I sent you after?

RASTUS

Hissus Hepsy, ah done went down to that well for that water, and when ah I was down there, ah done forgot to bring the pail so ah had to come back up and get it, and then the misery in ma feet jest hurt me so ged ah had to lay down.

HEPS Y

Restus, you're so lazy the dead lice won't drop off of you. I've told you to keep awake and keep an eye open for Revenue Officers that might be snoopin' around tryin' to locate my still.

RASTUS

Ah aint seen no revenuers for the longest time!

H PSY

RASTUS

(IAUGHS) Ah don't think they'd have much luck! Yo' all got a more powerful wallop then a ten ton jackasss.

HEPSY

I sint never forgot that it was a revenue officer that shot my husband in the back. Damn 'em! (PUTS PIPE TO HER MOUTH) I'll get even someo day. Every dog has his day.

RASTUS

Yesm'. Remember dat ole dayin' -- every dog has his day, and the dog with a short tail has a week end!

HERSY

Some day a revenue officer is going to walk right into my hands, and I'm gonna shoot him--but it won't be in the back it'll be in the heart. (LAUCHS) Do you know what I'd do if I found a prohibition agent right now, Restus?

RASTUS

HERSY
I'd take him like this. (GRAIS RASUTS) And I 'd throw him like this, and then I'd push him this way and then I'd throw him down (THROIS RASTUS DOWN AND PUTS FOOT ON HIM) Abbha! The world is mine! (BILL GROW ANT AREASTUS)

RASTUS

Well, take your foot off of my county seat!

COMING DOWN A LITTLE AND LAUGHING CRUFFLY) What's the matter, Hepsy? You and Rastus have any words before you fell out?

Naw, I was just showin' him how I'd treat the man who shot my husband in the back.

Ah showan a damn fool for wantin' to find out! (RUBS HIMS ILF)

HEPSY
(TURNING ON RASTUS AGAIN) And that aint all I do. Do you know what else
I'd do? Do you want to know? (REAL QUICK IN HIS FACE) Do you know?

RASTUS
Hell no! And I don't give a damn! (EXITS L. U.)

Want to watch out this time of year is about the time they usually swarm around these here hills, Hepsy. I'm keepin' my trigger eye open for 'em. There was stranger happened in at Big Pine today. Says he's an artist, and that he wants to paint pictures of these here surroundings.

Well, he'd better be sure he's a painter! Say, Bill, I want you to help me with a batch of mash. I just run off a mess day before yesterday.

BILL

Where's Daisy, Hepsy?

HEPSY
Lord only knows where the girl is. She's moonin' around the hills some where. The girl getsmore useless every day she's alive. I've been trying to learn her to make moonshine, and she can't aven drink it let alone brew it!

Well, when I marry her, I'll make somethin' useful out of her. She'll get off her high horse---and learnto be a regular wife.

Well, its about time the girl was becoming your wife. I've told her to go ahead and take you. She can't find no better around these here parts.

Well, I'm glad you say so. When you come to think of it I'm about the best man around herefor miles I guess.

HEPSY

Yep! Your the best man. (LOOKS AT HIM HALF SNEAR) That aint sayin' much for the rest of the men tho!

You old has, you've always got to have your jokes. (SIAFS H.R. LIMTLY)

(HITS HIM HARD R) You're the biggest joke around here!

Does Daisy know that she is not your real daughter, Hepsy?

No! I wish I could find out who she really belonged to. I'd see that her folks claimed her. Daisy was never meant for this kind of a life.

CANTURE R. U. WITH RASTUS WHO IS JUST DRAGGING ALONG) come on, Rastus! Bring that pail of water! Mother, I brought slow poke back with the water. If I hadn't of he'd have gone to sleep on well, and he might have fell in.

RASTUS
Lawsy, Miss Daisy ah's got the misery in my feet. I can't move fast!

You lazy thing, in a minute, I'll give you a good kick, and you'll have the misery somewhere else!

RASTUS
No you won't. Ah already got the misery there. Ah's the misery all over!

(LOOKS AT BUCKET) Well, where's the water. Look there's only a third of a bucket full.

(LAUCHING) I'll bet the water plum evaporated it took him so long to get it.

tt's a good thing I didn't want this water to take a bath in. I just happened to want it for a drink. (EXITS IN THE HOUSE E. WITH BUCKET)

RASTUS

Ef ah had known she'sas gonna drink dat water ah wouldn't a bathed my feet in before I come up here!

Oh, Rastus, shame on you for saying that. Now I won't be able to drink any water for a week.

Guess you'll have to drink moonshine.

DAISY

No moonshine for me!

BILL Guess, you think you're too good dhakahahahahak to drink moonshine. Moonshine never hurt any one. I drink it all of the time and look at me.

I have look at you, and that's why I don't drink moonshine.

FILE INCLINED Inclined to be smart. Well, I'll take some of that out of you when you're married to me.

DAISY Married to you! Bill Crow, you flatter yourself. I shall never marry you!

We'll see about that: (TAKES AHOLD OF HER ARM) A good beating is what you need! (STARTS TO HIT HER)

RASTUS
(GRABS BILL AND THROWS HIM ASIDE R. DAISY GOES L.) Hold on there, Bill Crow, if they's any beatin' to be done, Miss Daisy aint gonna get it.
(DAISY EXITS L. H.)

Why you black etheopian! They hang niggers in this country for interfereing with a white man's business.

RASTUS
Yessah! A white man's business, but they also offer five dollars a head for every skunk dat is brought in, and dat's what you am.

Skunk! You call me a skunk. You'll apologize for that.

RASTUS
Yessah, ah'll apologize takahdrakakakahda The next time I see a skunk
I'll apologize. (EXITS)

**** NUMBER ONE ****

RASTUS

Doggone! Ah's jest so tired. Ah showish ah could go to sleep and wake up about ten years from now, so ah could get my rest out! (STARES TO LAY DOWN ON THE BENCH)

FRANK FARNUM

(ENTERS RI U. CARRIES SMALLSUIT CASE OR BUNDLE) Well, I wonder if I can get lodging here. I must say this hill billies are sure hospitible like so much nit. (SEAS RASTUS) Hello, can you tell me who lives here?

Yes suh! But who you all be, stranger?

I'm an artist! I came up here to paint pictures and enjoy the climate. I've been trying every house along the ridge, and they all refuse me lodging? What kind of treatment am I going to get here?

Man, yo' all better just keep right on going. Dis here place am owned by Miss Hepsy Lowry, and she don't allow no strangers around here.

Why is she afraid of strangers?

She's afraid they might turn out to be prohibition agents. She done told me always to keep an eye on anything that looked like a revenuer.

Well, do I look like a revenuer?

RASTUS
It aint so much what you look like it's what you am. You all say you paint pictures? Does you paint barns, fences, and woodsheds?

Nothing like it. I paint beautiful scenery, landscapes and I make a specialty of flowers. Why I minted a flower once and it was so natural that the bees lit on it and tried to sip the honey from my painting.

RASTUS
Go on, man! I had a brother dat was a great painter too. One day he done painted a pic ture of a chicken, and it was so natural dat when he threw it in the waste basket, it laid there!

(IAUCHS) You're quite a humorist. But where is the lady who owns the place. I'm going to ask her for a place to sleep.

RASTUS
Believe me if yo' all is tryin' to disguise yo'self and yo all happen
to be real revnuer, you all better go on, cause Miss Hepsy sho' will
kill you.

Why should she kill me. There isn't any liquur on this place is there?

Ah I aint gonne tell you. Of course there aint no liquurbere.

HEPSY

(ENTERS FROM HOUSE IRUNK. CARRIES A JUG) Whoopee! I'm crocked and I don't give a hoot!

(SMILES. TO RASTUS) Did you say there was no linour on this place?

(STOPS TURNS COLD ON SELING FRAM) Who be you, stranger?

FRANK
Allow me to introduce myself, madam. I am Frank Farnum. I came down here to paint pictures, and enjoy the climate. Could I get a room here?

You could, but you're not going to. I don't want strangers around here. Clear out!

FRAM.

Madam, why do you do this? You haven't given me a chance. I'll pay
you well for allowing me to stay here.

HMPSY

Mighty fine lot your money would do if you be a revenue officer. That's about all strangers come up here for.

Well, to show you I'm a good fellow I'll take a drink with you! (TAKES JUG FROM H IR) Go ahead! The last revenue agent died from two shots of this. FRANC Huh? (LOOKS AT JUG A MINUTE. SHA GIVES HIM DIRTY LOOK) Oh well! (DRIMKS SPITS CASPS FOR AIR) Oh my god! (LAUCHS) If it kills him, I'll swear he's a revenuer. It take a real man to live and drink my stuff! FRANC Madam, you'll never get arrested for makin' monnshine -- that's T. N. T. ! RASTUS What's the matter with you, man? Dat's good moonshine. It's Tested. FRA NE Tested! How do you test that whiskey? RASTUS displyes, it's perfect! HEPSY Stranger, I'me decided to let you stay here at my cabin. Go in and lay down your bags. There's some corn pone in there, and some sow belly.

Well, we got three rules for testing whiskey! First you drop a sleage hammer in it: if it floats, it's poor; if it sinks, it's fair; if it

Thank you! (EXITS IN HOUSE L.)

HEPSY Rastus, we will keep an aye on him. I suspicion that man, but I'm going to let him stay here and watch him. If he's a revenuermI'll get to be the first one to shoot him. (EXITS HOUSE L.)

RASTUS

She sure will do it too!

DAISY (ENTERS WITH BUNCH OF WILD DAISYS) Hello, Rastus. . See the pretty flowers I picked. I just love them! I'm going to show them to mother.

RASTUS Better not go in there. They's a man done come here to stay. He says he's picture maker, your mammy thinks he's somethin' else tho.

FRANK (ENTERS FROM HOUSE) Oh! I can see the scenery is getting better.

DAISY Are you going to live here with us?

FRANK

Yes. What's your name?

My name is Daisy!

And you're just as lovely as the daisies that you hold in your hand. Believe me you're a daisy!

Yo' all better be careful and not try to pick that daisy!

I've already plucked the daisy! Come! Will you show me about the place my little wild flower?

Yes, come with me--Mister, ---why I don't even know your name!

Just call me Frank for short. (THEY EXIT TOGETHER R. U.)

RASTUS
Doggone dat aint gonna get it! Ole Missus Hepsy see her shin' up to dat feller and forgettin' about Bill Crow and dey gonna be trouble.
Well, my miseryssbotherin' me again so I guess I'll go take a napt

****** NUIBER TWO ******* *****************

(ANTERS L. WITH RASTUS) Listen here, Rastus, that revenue officer has been here two whole weeks, and he and Daisy are together all of the time First thing we know her head will be turned by his fine manners. I want you to follow them, and see that they don't start making love. Keep those two separated. Do you hear me?

Yes'm. I'll get on their scent just like a blood hound!

BILL
(MTRS R. U.) Howdy, Hepsy. Where's Daisy? Out with that city
stranger again I suppose. What ever turned you to let him stay here.
All the rest of the folks atound here drove him off.

I know what I'm doin', Bill Grow. Any time they catch old Hepsy Lowry asleep it's gonna be cause somebody shot mer in the back like they did my husband. (EXITS HOUSE)

Sho' would be too sad if ole Hepsy wanted that you shot her husband in the back, Bill Crow.

Well, she'll never know it unless you tell her, and if you ever tell?
---remember I've got ten friends in these hills that would see you
swinging from the tallest tree in big pine. Back and forth your body
would sway in the wind, and crows and buzzards would knaw at your flest

(SCARED) Oh, man, shut your business. I aint gonna tell. Sho was dirty tho'---you didn't get no thin' by killin ' him any way.

BILL I know it! I thought when I got old man lowry out of the way I could get ahold of his moonshine still, but there's no chance of getting it away from old Hepsy. But then if I can marry Daisy, I figure I'll be sattin' any way. RASTUS Why fo? Daisy aint got no money. That's all you know about it. Daisy aint Hepsy's real flesh and blood daughter. Dassy was found when she was a little baby all wrapped up in a little bundle down by the old millstream at Higgins Cross. Papers found with her prove that she is the daughter of a rich man in New-York city who only recently died, and the lawyers are hunting for the heiress to his estate. RASTUS And yo' all aint gonna tell Daisy about it until after you forces her to marry you, then you figurin' on sharin' her fortune! Man, I sho is glad I met you in my life. BILL Why? RASTUS Because when I gets around you I feels almost like a white man, yo am so black in comparison.

Why you --- (STARTS TO HIT HIM)

DAISY
(ENTERS R. U. WITH FRAM) Bill Crow! What are you doing? You leave
Restus alone.

I'm not in the habit of being told what to do by a woman. Usually I tell a woman what to do, and when I decide to marry one, I don't expect any interference. (STARTS TO DAISY)

FRAMM (STEPS IN BETWEEN HER AND BILL) Well, when you start after this one, Mister, you'll get interference and plenty of it.

BILL Mighty big talk for a stranger to be spoutin' off, specially when folks are talking of hangin' himfor a revenue agent.

You seem to be q uite sure that I am that!

You're not in these hills for any good reason.

FRANK

That remains to be seen!

Well, stranger, I'll soon find out what you be doing, and when I do I'll see that you get yours. (EXITS R. U.)

You want to be careful that you don't get yours! Daisy, let's go take a walk along the ridge. I want to give you some more --

You all wint gonna give her nothin'. Miss Hepsy done told me to match you two.

Dalsy Rasuts, you better mind your oun business. Franc is teaching me how to read and speak good English. Since he's been here I've learned more than I ever did in my life.

You all want to watch him. He's diable to teach you something besides English. Folks around here say he's a revenuer.

DAISY Frank, I wish you would settle that. Tell me -- I anow you wouldn's lieto me --- are you here looking for moonshine stills?

FRANCE Daisy --- I -- would it make any difference to you if I were ?

Daisy No, I would still love you. But if you are lying and sneaking about it to me, I shall despise you.

FR. N. Daisy, I will not lie to you. I -- am a revenue agent. There! Now I've told you. I guess I'd better get ready and leave here.

DAISY No, I don't want you to leave. Stay here, but don't let mother know that you are here after moonshine, becaus e she'd kill you. Frank, you wouldn't cause her trouble would you even if you caughther?

Duty is duty, Daisy. But I'm going to fail in my duty in one way. When I find the still I am looking for. I am going to destroy it and let your mother go free. How will that be?

DAISY all right! Mother wouldn be better off if she didn't have that moon around her. Come now! Let's take our walk together! (THEY KIT R. U.)

RASTUS ... h showates to have to follow them togbut I got to do my duty! Missus Hepsy would kill me if I didn't! (EXITS R. U.) Don't you two go too fast I gotte follow you.

H.PSY (SNTERS FROM HOUSE WITH JUG) Well, I think I'll get stowed again. That's about all there is to do down in this country - -- fish and drink moons hine -- and I never did like to fish. (DRIMES FROM JUC) (SMACKS LIPS) That's gettin' better every day. Wonder where that Daisy gal is? I hope that nigger is watchin' her and that stranger. (CALLS) Daisy! Daisy! Where be ye?

RASTUS (ENTERS BACKING ON) Doggone! Ah don't know whether dats right or not.

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Rastus, where's Daisy? Didn't I tell you to follow her and that feller?

R ASTUS

Yes'm dats just what I done. I walked right bealind 'em fo' the longest time, den him and her went bealind a great big rock and ---

HEPSY

Well, go on!

(Sens)

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RASTUS

Well, dat Mister Frank done give me a quarter not to look, and I ---

HEPSY

You good for nothing, black rascal, why didn't you look?

RASTUS

Well, I did hook, and -- and then he done give me fifty cents not cto come back for an hour. I dddn't think no damage could be done in just a hour, so I--I left hem.

HIPSY

You crazy fool by one hour the way these city folks work, a whole lot could be done. I've got to go get them; (EXITS R. U.)

RASTUS

I don't think nothin's gonna be done. They was talkin' about readin' books, and the study of the stars and the moon, and he done told her to come out tonight, and he show her the auraboreallis! Maybe that might bear lookin' into, but right now my misery's botherin' me so I guess I better go to sleep. (EXITS)

****** NULBER THREE ******

HEPSY

(ENTERS R. U. DRAGGING FRANK BEHIND HER. A ROPE TIED AROUND HIM? A SHOT GUN IN ONE OF HAR HANDS AND A JUG OF WHISKEY IN THA OTHER ONE) Come on you no good yeller hound. I thought along what ye was. Ye thought ye were puttin' somethin' over on me. (LAUGHS) Well you didn't. You can't fool old Hepsy Lowry!

RASTUS

(ENTERS R. U.) What's a matter, Missum Hepsy?

HEPSY

I just caught this revenuer snoopin' around my still. Tryin' to get evadence. Well, it won't do you no good ' cause I'm gonna kill you.

RASTUS

I sho'md one warned you mister not come around this heah place.

HEPSY

Look at him! Standin' there. Aint he proud. (TAKES A DRINK) Here's to prohibition --- and the damn fools that try to make it a law! I'll show you what I think of you and your kind.

FRANK

Madam, you are mistaken in me. I meant you no great harm.

HMPSY

No greater hamr than sending me to jail for life or shooting me in the

back. Well, I'm not gonne be like your kind. I'm gonne shoot ll you in the heart. Do you get me? In the heart! (LAUGHS) Get ready for it. Down on your knees and beg. Whine!

FRANCE No! Thanks I'll take my medicine standing up! (BILL ENTERS R. U.)

The hell you will! Maybe you think I won't shoot! (RAISES GUN) I'm gonna send that bullet straight through your heart. (WHAVES AND GUN SWAY

(SMILING) Are you sure you can send it straight through?

HAPSY
I'll fix you! I 'll fix you! I can shoot straight all right. (STAGGARS
GUN SMAYS SO IT IS POINTING TO RASTUS) I'll pull the trigger, and --

(DISCOVERS THE GUN IS POINTING AT HIM) Look out, fool! (DROPS ON KNES)

Well, my dear madam, if you're going to shoot me, I wish you'd do it quickly and get it over with. I have an important engage ent!

Don't make fun of me, you cuss. I'll show you. (RAISES RIFIN STANDS RIGID .ND STRAIGHT POINTS GUN PULLS BACK TRIGGAR) One--two---

(RUNS ON R. U. AND RUNS TO RRAW! L. STANDS IN FRONT OF HIM) Mother, if fire that gun you must kill me first!

Get away from him! Get away from him! I'm gonna shoot his heart out.

DAISY
(HOLDING GUN) Mother, you're drunk. You don't know what you are doing Please! Let me have that gun.

BILL
Let her alone! That's what he deserves. Ten to one he's one of the fellers that shot her husband in the back. Go ahead! If she can't fire the gun, I can. (GRABS GUN)

You leave that gun alone. Don't you touch it.

Get away! (SHOWES H.R) I know he's your lover, but He's gonna get his dues. (RASTUS UNTIES FRANC)

(DRAWS GUN) All right! I think I'm the one to dish out the justice now. Throw up your hands. You're all under arrest!

HEPSY

He's got us!

Well. he hasn't got me. (STARTS)

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Stand where you are, or I'll drop you on the spot, Bill Crow.

Yessa, mam! You'll be a dead crow.

You untied him, you black wretch. You'll get strung up for this!

RASTUS
Maybe I will, but I'm gonna tell something on you before I does. Missus
Hepsy, you aint got noright to accuse prohibition agents for shootin'
your ole man in the back, for it weren't no revenuer done it.

HEPSY

Who was it then?

RASTUS

It was Bill Crow himself. He done it to try and get ahold of your still

BILL

It's a lie!

HEPSY
Bill Crow, you shot my husband for my still, did you? So you're the sneakin' hound that done it, and you tried to lay it on a revenuer.
Well, you know what I said I'd do to the man who shot him.

(SCARID) I didn't do it. That nigger lies. (STARTS BACKING OUT R. U.)

HEPSY
He aint got brains enough to lie. (TAKES RIFLE) I'll get you! Take your medicine. (EXITS ARTER HIM WITH GUN)

RASTUS

**Course I don't lie---I aint got brains--what the--who can't lie. I got as much brains to lie as anybody, but dat am de truff. I never had nerve enough

to tell it till just now.

Oh I hope Mother doesn't do anything foolish.

There's sumthin' else I got to tell. Missus Hepsy aint your real mother She and her old man found you when you was a baby and they raised you like their own. You know them papers Missus Hepsy's got in the cabin Well them was found on you, and of course they weren't nobody around her could read 'em, but they prove that you are the heiress to a big estate somewhere.

Me--heires! Oh, Rastus! Frank! I'm so happy. I can hardly believe

FRAMM
Well, Daisy, now you are going to leave these hills and go the the city
and learn the ways of a different life. You see my parents are also
very wealthy and I don't have to be a revenue officer unless I want to.
I only did it for the excitement.

DAISY
Well, Hepsy may not be my real mother but I love her just the same and she must go with us.

Of course! didjedidied diese we'll all leave this old place.

RASTUS
'Spect ah'll be left here all alone with the chickens then, buh?

Mo, Rastus, we'll take you with us and you can be our chauffuer. Dogou know what that is?

Sure! Shove her in low, shove her in second, shove her in high shove on the brake!

But before I resign from the prohibition force I'm going to send Bill Crow up--that is if Hepsy Lowry hasn't already dealt with him.

(SHOOTS OFF STAGE AND ENTERS R. U. HOLDING GUN AND LOOKING GRILLY OFF R.

Mother! What have you done?

(TURNING) I've just shot a pole cat!

Oh mother, Frank is going to take us all to the city to live. Rastus has told me who I really am and I've got loads of money coming to me, and Frank's got lots of money, and wa're going to take you and Rastus and live in a big swell mansion made of soldd gold. How does that sound to you?

HEPSY .

Rotten!

Why, Hepsy, why don't you want to go to the city to live?in

HEPSY
Because they aint got no stills there? And there 's just one thing I want?

FRANK

And what is that?

Moonshine! and plenty of it. (TAKES BIG SWIG OF JUG)

FINALE